AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended): ~~The ion chromatography system according to Claim 1~~An ion chromatography system comprising:

a separating mechanism;

a suppressor mechanism coupled to the separating mechanism, the suppressor mechanism adapted to receive an eluted liquid from the separating mechanism, the suppressor mechanism having a main body in which an ion exchanger is provided to reduce the electric conductivity of the eluted liquid from the separating mechanism; and

a detector coupled to the suppressor mechanism to detect desired ions in the eluted liquid from the suppressor mechanism,

wherein the suppressor mechanism includes automatic exchanging means for discharging the ion exchanger from the main body and for supplying a virgin ion exchanger to the main body,

wherein the main body of the suppressor mechanism is a 6-way switching rotary valve having a first rotary groove a, a second rotary groove b and a third rotary groove c,

wherein the suppressor mechanism includes a chamber, for accommodating a virgin ion exchanger in a slurry state, coupled to the rotary valve,

wherein the automatic exchanging means includes (1) a liquid transferring tank, which accommodates a transferring liquid for introducing the virgin ion exchanger in a slurry state in the chamber into the rotary valve, and (2) a liquid transferring means for supplying the transferring liquid,

wherein a flow passage from the separating mechanism is connected to a flow passage to the detector by the rotary groove a,

wherein a flow passage from the liquid transferring means to the chamber is connected to a flow passage to the third rotary groove c by the second rotary groove b,

wherein a flow passage from the second rotary groove b is connected to a flow passage to a discharge passage leading to the outside of the rotary valve by the third rotary groove c, and

wherein filters, which prevent the passage of ion exchanger are respectively provided at (1) a side of the separating mechanism with respect to the first rotary groove a, (2) a side of the detector with respect to the first rotary groove a, and (3) a side of the third rotary groove c with respect to the second rotary groove b.

3. (currently amended): ~~The ion chromatography system according to Claim 1~~An ion chromatography system comprising:

a separating mechanism;

a suppressor mechanism coupled to the separating mechanism, the suppressor mechanism adapted to receive an eluted liquid from the separating mechanism, the suppressor mechanism

having a main body in which an ion exchanger is provided to reduce the electric conductivity of the eluted liquid from the separating mechanism; and

a detector coupled to the suppressor mechanism to detect desired ions in the eluted liquid from the suppressor mechanism,

wherein the suppressor mechanism includes automatic exchanging means for discharging the ion exchanger from the main body and for supplying a virgin ion exchanger to the main body,

wherein the main body of the suppressor mechanism is a tube having a first end and a second end, the first and the second ends being provided with sealing materials through which only a string-like ion exchanger is passable,

wherein the suppressor mechanism includes a chamber, for accommodating a virgin string-like ion exchanger, coupled to the first end of the tube,

wherein the automatic exchanging means includes supply means for introducing the string-like ion exchanger in the chamber into the tube from the first end and discharging the string-like ion exchanger from the second end, and

wherein an input portion of the tube, which is located adjacent to the second end of the tube, is connected to a flow passage from the separating mechanism, and wherein an output portion of the tube, which is located adjacent to the first end of the tube, is connected to the detector.

4. (currently amended) The ion chromatography system according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the automatic exchanging means replaces the ion exchanger in the main body with the virgin ion exchanger every time a predetermined number of detections are performed by the detector.

Claims 5-10. (canceled).